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Preliminary Amendment Accompanying
Substitute Specification

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the previous Abstract with the following redlined Abstract:

The invention concerns a method of and an apparatus for continuously desalinating water by reverse osmosis, in particular desalinating sea water, wherein ~~_~~ salt water (10) is introduced under a first pressure (~~p1~~) by means of a delivery pump (1) into a pressure compensating device (~~2~~), ~~_~~ salt water (11) is continuously introduced from the pressure compensating device (2) at a second increased pressure (~~p2~~) into a membrane module (3) and separated therein by means of a membrane (6) into desalinated water (12) and concentrated salt water (~~13~~), and ~~_~~ the concentrated salt water (13) discharged from the membrane module (3) is continuously introduced under approximately the second pressure (~~p2~~) into the pressure compensating device (2) and used there for acting with approximately the second pressure (~~p2~~) on the salt water (10) introduced into the pressure compensating device (2) and for introducing the salt water (11) into the membrane module (~~3~~). In order to avoid disturbances in operation and possibly damage to the membrane (6) because of a reduced flow over the membrane surface, it is provided in accordance with the invention that a continuous flow of the salt water (11) introduced into the membrane module (3) is maintained over the surface of the membrane (6) by means of salt water discharged from a reservoir (~~15; 403, 20~~).